

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 03608 271030Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 /032 W
-----005769 271236Z /50

R 270949Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7460

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 03608

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GE
SUBJECT: SUIT AGAINST THE GDR FOR BACK TAXES

1. GDR MFA USA DESK OFFICER ELM INFORMED POLOFF MAY 25 THAT THE GDR IS BEING SUED IN AN ARLINGTON COURT IN CONNECTION WITH BACK TAXES ON A HOUSE OWNED BY THE GDR EMBASSY. ELM SAID THAT DCM MONTAG, WHO IS NOW IN THE GDR ON LEAVE, HAD TOLD MFA THAT A SUIT WAS BEING BROUGHT AGAINST GDR EMBASSY FOR TAXES ON A HOUSE LOCATED IN ARLINGTON COUNTY, OWNED BY THE GDR EMBASSY AND USED FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES AND THAT THE COURT PROCEEDINGS BEGIN MAY 26. ELM SAID THAT HE WAS INFORMING US OFFICIALLY THAT THE GDR IS "ASTONISHED" THAT THE COURT IS TAKING THIS ACTION AGAINST THE GDR, WHICH IS A SOVEREIGN STATE. THE MFA ASKS THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO USE ALL ITS INFLUENCE TO PREVENT THIS JUDICIAL MATTER FROM PROCEEDING FURTHER AS SUCH ACTION BY THE ARLINGTON COURT IS AGAINST INTERNATIONAL RULES AND DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES. ELM STATED THAT HE WAS SURE THAT THE PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED "IN ANOTHER WAY."

2. ELM STATED THAT THE PROBLEM HAD BEEN DISCUSSED SEVERAL TIMES WITH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND WITH PRIVATE ATTORNEYS AND THAT THE GDR EMBASSY
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HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT IT NEED NOT BE CONCERNED. ELM STATED "OFF THE RECORD" THAT THE EMBASSY HAD TENDED TO IGNORE THE CASE UNTIL IT HAD SUDDENLY CAME TO ITS ATTENTION THAT A COURT CASE WAS IN PROCESS.

3. POLOFF SAID THAT HE WAS UNINFORMED ABOUT THE ISSUE BUT WOULD CONVEY THE MFA'S REQUEST TO

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. ELM SAID THAT THE
GDR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WOULD FOLLOW UP WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE SHORTLY. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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